COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the *14th March, 1935.*
1st Meenom, 1110.

The House met at 11-30 A. M. in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, with M. R. Ry., P. Krishna Menon Avl., in the Chair, Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, K. T. Mathew, and Popatlal Govardhan Lalan, were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Sea-erosion—relief to the victims.

327. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—(a) Adverting to the Government's statement in sub-division (a) to Question No. 173, dated 17th December 1931, to the effect that there are in Cranganur single land-holdings, the ruin to each of which by sea-erosion has amounted to more than a lakh of rupees, will they kindly say whether they intend to make this a consideration in the distribution of their recent grant of five lakhs of Agricultural Loan and of the additional lakhs they may further grant under the head;

(b) and what other relief, if any, they intend to accord to the victims of sea-erosion among the agricultural population?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon—(a) No.

(b) Government regret that they cannot do anything in the matter at present.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—With reference to the answer about this question on sea erosion and relief to the victims there from, are the Government aware that among these victims of sea erosion there are a few pattadars who have lost all their lands including their homesteads?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Government have no specific information on this matter. But before the Hon'ble Member proceeds to more supplementary questions, I may inform the Hon'ble Member that the Government are considering whether it would be possible to give them surplus lands out of the accretion at Elangunnapuzha and other places and there is a scheme of exchange under consideration. This question of giving lands in exchange of the lands eroded is receiving the attention of the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Free of cost?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Yes. In company with other people these cases have also been included in the scheme of

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exchange and whether it would not be possible to give them exchange for lands eroded.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Am I to take it that the pattadars of Cranganur will be given these accretions?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— In all probability if there is a surplus their case also will be considered. I know there is some surplus there. How far is it possible to give them, is being considered by the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Are you sure, it is free of price ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Yes. That is to pay to those people who have kept paying tax. Their case obviously must be considered specially. There are two kinds of people, people who still continue to pay tax and people who have relinquished their holdings and absolved themselves from the liability to pay tax. No tax is being collected upon those lands eroded. But they voluntarily pay the tax in the hope that they would get accretions in exchange. I know there are some such cases in Cranganur. Their case will be considered. At any rate the whole scheme is being considered now.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— There are people who are not able to pay the tax. I want to emphasis that point. Will any special consideration be bestowed on their behalf?

Mr. K Achyuta Menon:—Under the proposals now tentatively made, it will not be possible to give all these people who have surrendered their holdings. They are not paying the tax and have given notice to the Government that they are surrendering their holdings. Thereby they cease to be pattadars. But those who are still pattadras and continue to pay tax, the question of giving lands in exchange for them is being considered.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:— The question is about the agricultural loan and I don't know how these questions arise here?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— I understood that the Hon'ble Member wanted to find out whether there is any way of benefitting these people. So I was saying just to supplement the question put by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— In this case they can't pay at all. Their everything has been washed off by the sea even to the last inch. Therefore the question of continuing the assessment does not arise. In such cases is there not a double duty cast on the Government to give some relief to them ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— The scheme now being worked out does not include them. If there are any excess of land their case can be considered and I will make appropriate recommendations.

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